

conferred with Mercer about tribal prospects for the dinner, but cannot recall if Mercer specifically identified or solicited any contributions for the event.

As noted above, documents reflect that Fowler was communicating with O'Connor about Indian contributions at this time, but no witness recalls O'Connor or Kitto playing any role in soliciting contributors for the Sept. 11 dinner. Nonetheless, two tribes that had been active in the Hudson opposition effort were represented at the dinner and made contributions in connection with it: the Oneida of Wisconsin and the Mille Lacs of Minnesota.⁵⁴⁸

By Sept. 6, Crain reported by memo to Sullivan and Mercer that he had secured commitments of \$10,000 from the Oneida and \$15,000 from the Mille Lacs in connection with the dinner. On the basis of these donations, Oneida Chairwoman Deborah Doxtator and Mille Lacs tribal council members Melanie Benjamin and Doug Twait attended the Sept. 11 dinner with the Vice President, along with Fowler, Sen. Dodd, Mercer, Crain and a group of about 25 other contributors.⁵⁴⁹ Briefing materials Crain generated for the dinner identified the Oneida and

⁵⁴⁷(...continued)
(and designated both Ho Chunk President JoAnn Jones and Oneida Chairwoman Deborah Doxtator as "Good Democrat[s]"), he also designated with stars both of the listed Hudson applicant tribes (the Mole Lake Sokaogon and the Lac Courte Oreilles), even while noting gaiashkibos as a "Republican" (and "Loretta Avent's friend").

⁵⁴⁸On Sept. 19, after the DNC had received contributions from the Oneida and Mille Lacs totaling \$25,000, Mercer notified the DNC trustee director by memo that O'Connor's status as a trustee should be renewed. However, that memo made no reference to the September tribal contributions; instead, it cited O'Connor's recruitment of "Eric Hotung for \$100k," and noted that O'Connor still had "\$50k outstanding from the Native American community." This note suggests at a minimum that Mercer was unaware of any credit owed to O'Connor for the Oneida and Mille Lacs donations, but is consistent with both Mercer's May 19 memo and Fowler's more recent, undated notes indicating O'Connor "can raise \$50,000" from Indians.

⁵⁴⁹Among the other guests were leaders of two California tribes to whom Crain had been
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